THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

" Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 6432. *FRIDAY, Aug.* 5, 1842. *Price* 1*d.*

" The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

Worcester Musical Festival.—The 119th annual festival at Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester, is announced to take place on the 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of September, in the nave of the Cathedral Church of Worcester. A large number of eminent vocal and instrumental performers have been already engaged. The choral department has been selected from the Sacred Harmonic Society of London, and the Worcester, Birmingham, and Liverpool Societies.

" *Robert the Devil,*" *at the Mauritius.*—Port Louis boasts a pretty little French theatre and a tolerably good company. Chance procured us the acquaintance of the *Jeune Premier.* He was an ex-whale-fisher, who had grown tired of storms, ice, and oil. This honest fellow having invited us to the first performance of Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable,* we gladly went.

At the appointed hour he of the harpoon awaited our arrival at the stage-door. After making us grope through two ill-lighted rooms, crammed with scenery, in which we stumbled at one time against a cathedral or a banner, at another against a statue or a cloud, he at length led us to the stage by a long narrow passage. The curtain was still down, and the machinists were endeavouring to establish the camp in the first act, being not a little perplexed by a blunder of the decorator, who had introduced crescents into the arms of the Norman Knights.

When the curtain rose the house was thronged. The orchestra played away with such frenzy that their strings were continually snapping, and the kettle-drums threatened to burst. Had not the musicians' impetuosity been restrained, we doubt that a single treble string could have survived the middle of the opera. As for the actors, they lacked the *aplomb* which the habit of treading the boards gives, and their voices, occasionally true and agreeable, had not all the requisite breadth—they seemed at every moment about to forget their parts; but the pit applauded with so much enthusiasm, and so frequently, that they almost always had leisure to recover their memory. In justice we must say that our friend the whale-fisher looked very well in his knight's costume, and acquitted himself of the part better than we had expected.

With these exceptions the Opera was executed well enough, though we must add that the celebrated moonlight wofully resembled an effect of the sun, and that several important *morceaux* were unscrupulously left out, alone with the whole ballet of the third act, the latter omission being imputed to the impropriety of the dances. The beginning of the fifth act was marked by a very ludicrous incident, which, however, did not interrupt it, the audience fortunately taking it for a scene of the original piece. At the moment when *Robert* hesitates between *Alice* and his father, and knows not which of the two he had better follow, a negro, recently admitted into the side scenery as a workman, was suddenly taken

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with so much compassion for the Norman Prince, that he rushed in furiously, and seized upon infernal *Bertram*, to prevent his dragging along him in behalf of whom he thought himself bound to interfere. This piece of generosity would have marred the sublime *denouement* if *Robert* had not fortunately had presence of mind enough to administer his sable friend a kick that restored him to the station which he had no business to leave.—*French Print.*

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer,

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, paid another visit to the THAMES TUNNEL, which is now completed, and is 1,200 feet in length. The entrance is now on the Middlesex side, close to the Tunnel Pier at Wapping; the entrance to Rotherhithe is closed, in order to finish a new Staircase; on the completion of which the Tunnel will be opened as a thoroughfare for foot Passengers.

Wednesday, call at 21, Old Bond Street, to hear the extraordinary novelty, *The Rock Harmonicon*, which produces tones of the richest and sweetest harmony, wholly produced from fragments found among the Rocks of the majestic Skiddaw, in Cumberland. It extends to a compass of five octaves and a half, accompanied with all the additional semitones. This extraordinary instrument is the invention of Mr. Joseph Richardson, and his three sons perform on it, daily, from 10 o'clock until Dusk. The variety of tunes they execute are really endless. This delightful exhibition closes on Saturday next.

Afterwards visit the *Chinese Collection*, St. George's Place, Hyde Park Corner. It consists of objects exclusively Chinese, comprising upwards of 50 figures as large as life, in their native costume, from the highest mandarin to the mechanic; and replete with articles illustrative of their manufactures, habits, and domestic arrangements.—This exhibition is well worthy of inspection.

Thursday, I am to be found at the *Magic Cave*, 35, Strand, admiring a most interesting view of *The City of Hamburgh*, painted by Mr. Cox, from sketches taken upon the spot by James Medhurst, Esq., towards the end of the late disastrous conflagration. The extraordinary effect produced gives nearly all the reality of the fire itself. In additiou to this view there are seventeen others equally effective. Open from 10 in the morning until 10 at night.—Admission 6d.

Must call upon Messrs. COCKS & Co. Musicsellers to Her Majesty, for the latest Waltzes by Labitzky, Lanner, and Strauss. By Strauss, Stad-und Landleben, Tanzmeister, Deutsche Lust, Adelaiden. By Lanner—Die Mozartisten, Vorstadtler, Ideale, Sonderlinge. By Labitzky—Eduard, Albert, Jasmin, Lucian, Sutherland, Lichtenstein, Jubelklange, and the Die Fashionablen—so popular, have heard them played nine or ten times during the evening by the unanimous wish of the company. Published only by Messrs. COCKS & Co. 20, Princes-street, Hanover square.

You may talk of eye snuff, but after having the head-ache for a year, popped into PERRING'S, 85, Strand. got one of his superb Beavers, so light lost the head-ache in a minute—was shewn one of his elegant Velvet Hats, could not resist buying one of them also, price 13s.—wonderful.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS'S Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,– quite delighted with the excellence of the singing—commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Friday, called at EMMETT'S, 27, Holborn Hill, to view his Novel Pen Maker, by which any one can make a superior Pen in less than one minute! also his improved Needle Threader, to enable Ladies, whose sight is impaired to thread their needles with the greatest ease—a most ingenious contrivance.

Have just been to Holborn Hill, for another pair of WILSON'S New Footed Boots,—talk of economy, why my expense for boots will not be half as much as it used to be, and Mrs. P. has at last found a good shop for the children's shoes,—the neat little *leather bound* shoes that Wilson makes—wear twice as long as those of the ordinary description. and never look shabby. If you go, mind the houses are immediately opposite St. Andrew's Church, 95, and 97.

Saturday, I examine MISS LINWOOD'S curious NeedleWork, Leicester Square—lately added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's, &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, English Opera.

This Evening, the Domestic Drama of

LOST & WON.

Master Leyton, Mr Diddear,
Rupert, Miss France, Sir E. Newberry, Mr Green,
Master Richard Cotterell, MrW.H. Bland,
Thomas Handy, Mr France, Simon, Mr Burt,
Mistress Leyton, Miss Faucit,
Jane Magnus, Mrs Granby, Tabitha, Miss Granby,

After which, the Burletta of

The Illustrious Stranger

Azan, Mr Barker,
Gimbo, Mr J. Bland, Alibajou, Mr Granby,
Benjamin Bowbell, Mr Harley,
Aboulifar, Mr A. Wigan, High Priest, Mr Burt,
Irza, Miss Granby, Fatima, Miss Pincott.

To be followed by, the Musical Play of

THE EXILE;

Or, the Deserts of Siberia.

Governor of Siberia ..... Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Baron Altradoff, Mr J. BLAND,
CountUlrick, MrGRANBY, Welzien, Mr GREEN,
Count Calmar, Mr BARKER,
Yermack, Mr France, Patriarch, Mr Jones,
Petroff Servitz, Mr HARLEY,
Ivan Rimski .... Mr W. H. BLAND,
Daran, Mr JAMES VINING,
The Empress Elizabeth ..... Miss GRANBY,
Catherine.....Miss EMMA STANLEY,
Alexina.....Miss FAUCIT.

In Act II.--An Incidental Ballet.

To conclude with, a Grand Burlesque Ballet, called

GRIZELLE

Or, Dancing Mad.

The Grand Duke of Skyleisure, Signor Oxberrini,
Prince of Cowland, Signor Wiganini,
Grizelle, (Dancing Mad) Madlle. L. Fairbrotherini,
Princess Tilda, Madlle. Kendalini,
Queen of the Willies ..... Madame Diddearini.

Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening, the Comedy of

Secrets Worth Knowing

Greville, Mr HOWE,
Undermine, Mr TILBURY, Egerton. Mr STUART,
Rostrum, Mr VINING,
April.....Mr STRICKLAND,
Plethora, Mr WEBSTER,
Nicolas Rue.....Mr W. FARREN,
Valet, Mr WORRELL,
Footman.....Mr MITCHENSON,
Mrs Greville, Mrs EDWIN YARNOLD,
Rose Sidney, Miss CHARLES,
Sally Downright.....Mrs GLOVER,

After which, (22d Time) a new Comic Drama, in Two Acts, called

Peter and Paul.

Peter Britton, Mr W. FARREN,
Paul Britton ..... Mr STRICKLAND,
Lord Dandelion, Mr TILBURY,
Schemer, Mr VINING, Arthur Willoughby, Mr HOWE
Bennet . . Mr WORRELL,
Mrs Peter Britton ..... Mrs GLOVER,
Emma, Mrs E. YARNOLD,

To be followed by, adapted from the French, by Mr. Webster, The

Pretty Girls of Stilberg.

Ernest, Mr WEBSTER, Alfred, Mr H. HOLL,
Jules . . Mr VINING, Gustavus . . Mr HOWE,
Bob . . (a Drummer) . . Mr STRICKLAND,
Popplewig . . (a Gardener) . . Mr H. WIDDICOMB,
Margot, Madame CELESTE
Crettle . . Miss CHARLES, Betty . Miss MATTLEY

To conclude with, the Farce of

Mrs. WIGGINS.

Old Wiggins, Mr STRICKLAND,
Young Wiggins ..... Mr HOWE,
Mr Potsup, Mr T. F. MATHEWS,
Trim, Mr H. WIDDICOMB,
Mrs Wiggins, Miss STANLEY,
Mrs Tom Wiggins ..... Miss C. CONNOR,
Mrs Chloe Wiggins, Mrs STANLEY.

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